

The U.S. consular section at our embassy in Seoul is the busiest non-immigrant visa issuing post in the world, processing between 1,800 and 2,000 visa applications each day. It is clear that South Koreans want to visit the United States, and they have good reasons for doing so.

There are currently efforts underway to bring South Korea under the umbrella of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, which already applies to 27 other countries, including the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and Japan. This program, established in 1986 with the objective of promoting better relations with U.S. allies, also eliminates unnecessary barriers to travel, stimulates the tourism industry, and permits the U.S. Department of State to focus consular resources in other areas.

The South Korean Government has made it clear that it intends to meet all of the statutory and regulatory requirements of the Visa Waiver Program. Seoul is working with the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, and State in a diligent fashion to make sure that relevant South Korean governmental agencies have implemented the most up-to-date passport controls, using biometric and other technologies to prevent fraud and abuse. Mr. Speaker, I am almost certain that the Republic of Korea's entry into the Visa Waiver Program will be one of the topics discussed by President Roh and President Bush during their summit meeting this month.

There are, of course, other issues that certainly will be discussed at the White House by President Bush and President Roh, including the free trade negotiations, North Korean nuclear weapons development, and South Korea's active participation in the global war on terrorism and its contributions to the war effort in Iraq. The United States and South Korea have enjoyed a long and productive alliance, which, based on blood ties forged in the Korean war, will deepen into the indefinite future.

The frequent meetings of U.S. and Korean leaders are a clear manifestation of the close relationship shared by our two countries. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to welcome the president of the Republic of Korea, Roh Moo-hyun, to the United States as he visits Washington, DC, and the golden State of California. I invite all Members of the House to join me in offering President Roh our best wishes and hospitality as he visits our Nation's Capital.

CONGRATULATING EAGLEPICHER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize EaglePicher, an advanced technology company that was founded in 1843. Today, EaglePicher provides innovative products for a wide range of industries and employs approximately 3,900 people worldwide.

I would like to congratulate EaglePicher on the achievement of their nickel hydrogen batteries that reached one billion cell hours of successful flight time in space on September 9, 2006. EaglePicher Technologies, which makes these batteries is headquartered in Joplin, Missouri and has a long history of being one of Joplin's leading employers.

I am honored to congratulate the current President of EaglePicher Corporation, David Treadwell and the President of EaglePicher Technologies, Steve Westfall and all of the employees of EaglePicher on this special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH AND LINDA STEIGERS

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing to the actions of Kenneth and Linda Steigers of Juliaetta, Idaho.

Nine years before the Steigers purchased a section of land in Clearwater County, Idaho, a flood tore through the area. It destroyed many large cottonwood trees and other vegetation in a riparian zone of Lolo Creek which runs through their property. Eventually, grass grew back near the banks of the creek, which attracted grazing cattle. At that time the Bureau of Land Management raised concerns that the cattle may be adversely affecting the water quality of the creek and the salmon spawning beds in the area.

The Steigers, through support from the Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, have worked diligently to rectify the problem. They used program funding to build a fence around the riparian area and also developed a spring at the top of a nearby slope to provide an alternate drinking area for the cattle. With the cattle no longer grazing in the area, cottonwood trees and shrubs are growing in the area again. The salmon habitat has improved and elk, deer, geese, ducks, blue herons, and other small water birds have become abundant.

For their actions as CRP participants the Steigers will be presented with the Conservation Reserve Program Outstanding American Conservationist Award by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns at the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the actions of Kenneth and Linda Steigers. It is accomplishments like this that make our world a more beautiful and enjoyable place to live.

TRIBUTE TO CENTER POINT INC. AND CEO DR. SUSHMA TAYLOR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both Center Point, Inc. and its President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Sushma Taylor. The agency is commemorating 35 years of service to the people of California while celebrating Dr. Taylor's 25 years of visionary leadership with the agency.

Founded as a small rehabilitation program in Marin County, California, Center Point now offers a continuum of statewide services for

high-risk families, adults, and youths. With 30 sites in California and over 12,000 clients per year, the staff provides a wide array of health, social, and rehabilitative services to combat poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and psychological and substance abuse problems. Sushma Taylor's dedication has been the driving force behind the creation of this expansive and successful agency we see today.

Center Point's mission is to provide a range of affordable support services by offering education, training, health care, and counseling support so that those they serve can claim self-worth and dignity. Dr. Taylor's values and experience have been an ideal match for this mission.

Throughout her career, Sushma's primary focus has been to create opportunities and remove barriers for high-risk clients. She has long been a champion of those requiring social rehabilitation to improve their quality of life and their personal and social responsibility.

Sushma's father was an ambassador for the government of India, where she was born. The family relocated frequently, giving her a multi-cultural and multi-lingual orientation. She moved to Marin County in 1974. With a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and as a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, she had the background to serve as Director of Marin and Sonoma County's Treatment Alternative to Street Crime projects in coordination with each county's mental health department. She worked to develop a unique justice diversion project that was replicated nationally.

In 1981, Sushma became Executive Director of Center Point. Today the agency's clients receive a continuum of individualized services created by Sushma and funded through grants and contracts that she has successfully pursued. Graduates of the treatment programs move on to transitional housing and continuing care services as they prepare to successfully reintegrate into the community.

Sushma has also expanded Center Point programs to the state of Oklahoma has established them in California state prisons, dramatically reducing crime and recidivism. She is one of the foremost authorities in the nation on treatment for women and provides consultation around the world. She also works closely with local state, and federal agencies to form policies that advance the field of addiction treatment.

Mr. Speaker, Center Point's graduates are living proof of the achievement of their mission and of Dr. Sushma Taylor's belief that her true success is the successes of those she serves. Center Point believes that adversity can be overcome and the extraordinary achieved. And with Dr. Taylor's guidance, this has been demonstrated many times over. It is a pleasure to honor Dr. Taylor and Center Point on this memorable occasion.

TRIBUTE TO HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the people of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Portland on their